

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Overview of Resources and Services Available to Student Veterans

The Michigan State University (MSU) Student Veterans Information Portal (<http://veterans.vps.msu.edu>) serves as a virtual “one-stop” for veterans, service members, and their families to learn about resources and services that will support their success. In addition, MSU’s Veteran’s Resource Team, comprised of individuals from administrative offices who serve as the primary contact for student veteran’s resources and services, meets quarterly, or as needed, to discuss and explore opportunities for improved services.

MSU has received national recognition for its quality of resources and services provided to veterans. For example, the university has been named a Military Friendly Institution by *GI Jobs Magazine* and has been recognized as a top college in Michigan for Future Servicemembers within the College Database.

As of September 16th, 560 students at MSU were certified to receive veteran’s education benefits in 2013. A summary of primary resources and services available to student veterans is listed below.

Admissions: The veteran’s liaison in the Office of Admissions participates in orientation programs supported by various branches of the armed services and communicates regularly with veteran support services across campus in relation to processing veteran applications.

Certification and Records: The Office of the Registrar assists students with completing the paperwork required for GI Bill benefits, certifies students’ enrollment in compliance with Department of Veteran Affairs Regulations, and processes appeals for in-state tuition classification in accordance with university policy.

Consortium of Michigan Veteran Educators: Michigan State University is a member of the Consortium of Michigan Veteran Educators. The consortium is a state-wide network comprised of twenty-eight community colleges and the fifteen four-year public universities. Its mission is to improve the support and services available, and to increase the number of individuals who take advantage of their educational benefits.

Department of Defense (DoD) Memorandum of Understanding: MSU’s application for participation to the DoD Voluntary Education Partnership Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was approved July 6, 2012 and the agreement is effective for five (5) years. In accordance with the MOU, eligible servicemembers at MSU may receive funds from the DoD Tuition Assistance (TA) Program.

Department of Defense Military Academic Advancement Program (MAAP): MSU is a member of the Great Plains Interactive Distance Education Alliance (GPIDEA). GPIDEA participates in the Military Academic Advancement Program (MAAP), a collaboration funded by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Defense. The MAAP provides education for careers on and around military bases that fit the professional development of military spouses, dependents, and civilian professionals serving the military. The degree and certificate programs offered via the Great Plains Interactive Distance Education Alliance are totally online.

Financial Aid: The *MSU Disabled Veteran’s Assistance Program* supplements other financial aid and veteran benefits a student who was disabled in military service is receiving to cover the full cost of attendance with gift assistance and work. The *Yellow Ribbon Program* is available to students using the Post-9/11 GI Bill and uses a 50/50 matching grant from the Veteran’s Administration and MSU to cover the non-resident portion of tuition.

Resources and Services Available to Student Veterans (Continued)

In-State Fee Classification: The Office of the Registrar processes requests for in-state tuition classification in accordance with university policy (www.reg.msu.edu/AcademicPrograms/Text.asp?Section=112#s460):

1. "If a student, the spouse of a student, or the parent of a dependent student, is an active member of the regular armed forces who maintains Michigan as his/her official home of record, is registered to vote in Michigan and files a Michigan income tax return as a resident, the student shall be classified as in-state.
2. A student, the spouse of a student, or the parent of a dependent student who, is a veteran of at least 12 consecutive months of active United States military service prior to honorable separation, or as a member of the Reserve or National Guard, was mobilized for at least 12 months of active military service, and who moves to Michigan with the intent to become a domiciliary of Michigan within 90 days following discharge or return to non-active duty, shall be classified as in-state.
3. A member of the armed forces in active or reserve duty status attending the University in a degree program funded by the Department of Defense shall be classified as an in-state student, as will his or her spouse and his or her dependent children."

MSU Course (UGS 101) – Freshman Seminar Military Transitions in Society: This seminar is designed to help student veterans, active duty military, and their family members become academically and personally successful while examining transitions from military life to civilian life and studying the history of veterans in the United States.

MSU Student Veterans of America: MSU hosts a student veteran's association chapter. This non-partisan, registered student organization is committed to providing a welcoming atmosphere for veterans.

Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities (RCPD): The RCPD welcomes all veterans with service-related disabilities into its supportive network that helps each veteran maximize ability and opportunity. To provide the best support possible for veterans, the RCPD combines staff interest, donor support, and community networks to extend knowledge of veterans' issues in ways that celebrate service to country while recognizing academic and career potential despite disability.

ROTC Programs: The ROTC program offers four-year, three-year, and two-year scholarships to qualified students. An Army ROTC scholarship can provide all or most of the tuition and fees at Michigan State University. The scholarship also provides an allowance for text books. Scholarship students also receive a monthly allowance for up to ten months per year ranging from \$300 to \$500.

Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC) Consortium: MSU is a member of the Consortium. SOC is co-sponsored by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) and the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC). It functions in cooperation with fourteen other higher education associations, the Department of Defense, Active and Reserve Components of the military Services, and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Tuition Assistance: MSU accepts letters of sponsorship for all military personnel, including Tuition Assistance awards for active duty military servicemembers.

The United States Department of Veteran Affairs Principles of Excellence Program:

As a member of the Principles of Excellence Program, MSU is committed to making a good-faith effort to:

- "Provide students with a personalized form covering the total cost of an education program.
- Provide educational plans for all Military and Veteran education beneficiaries.
- End fraudulent and aggressive recruiting techniques and misrepresentation.
- Provide accommodations for Service Members and Reservists absent due to service requirements.
- Designate a Point of Contact for academic and financial advising.
- Ensure accreditation of all new programs prior to enrolling students.
- Align institutional refund policies with those under Title IV." (www.gibill.va.gov)